

AREA

F

FORM NO.

422

own ACTON

Address 105-107 Main Street

Historic Name "Faulkner Double House"

Use: Present two-family residential

Original two-family residential

# DESCRIPTION

Date 1844

Source Nylander notes, "Mill Corner"

Style Federal/Greek Revival with Italianate updating

Architect Moses Hayward (housewright)

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings 2-car gable roof garage with  
hinged panelled doors

Major Alterations (with dates) late 19th c  
pagoda roof bay

Condition very good

Moved no Date n/a

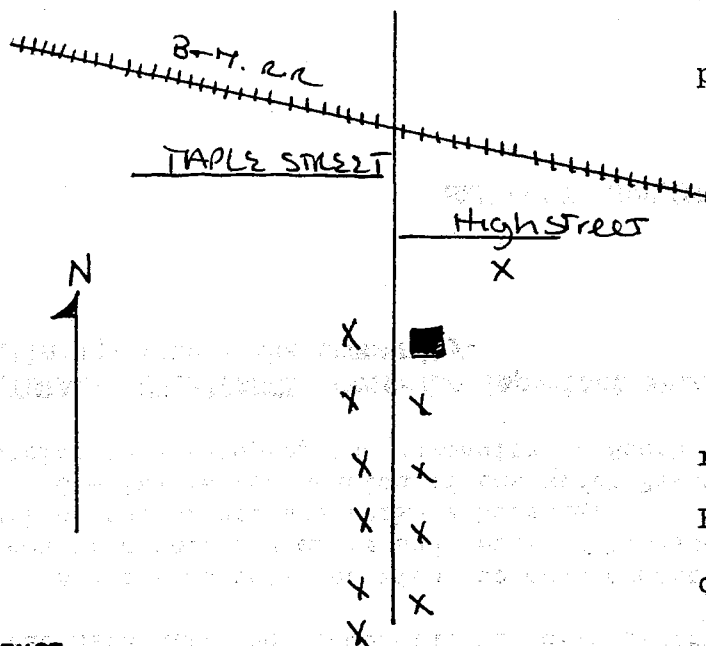
Acreage less than one acre

Setting East side of heavily travelled  
route, near corner of High Street with  
Faulkner Homestead set behind and above this  
dwelling, well established setting.

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date May 1990



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is eligible for National Register nomination as part of the School-River-Main Mill and Commercial Historic District for Criteria:

A - its association with the development of the railroad community from the 1840s with thriving mills and retail businesses on School, River and Main, as well as the owners and workers housing.

C - its representation of the Greek Revival and Italianate architecture most popular in developing the community of South Acton.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

South Acton, once part of the 1000-acre farm granted to Concord's Major Simon Willard, was sold to Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight in 1701. The first fulling mill was established and throughout the 18th and 19th century there were active mill privileges on Fort Pond Brook and at Mill Corner where Main Street (once known as Maynard Road) and High, Maple and School Streets intersect. South Acton was the first village center, preceding Acton Centre, which became the institutional center. With the advent of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 came the major growth of South Acton as an industrial village.

Main Street, now a numbered state route, is a major thoroughfare on a north-south axis. Once known as Maynard Road, Main Street has always been the major transportation route to Maynard and the location of buildings clustered at Mill Corner for the Faulkner Mills and by the mid 1800s, the railroad. South of Mill Corner are dwellings of the mid to late 19th century and farther south on Main Street approaching the Maynard town line are 20th century bungalows, Dutch Colonials, and 4-Squares. The dwellings on the west side of Main Street are built into a small hill which slopes off to Mill Pond behind the dwellings.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Birdseye/Map: 1856, 1870, 1875, 1886, 1889, 1892.  
Acton Historical Society, Jenks Library Files.  
Nylander and Forbes, "Mill Corner", 1989.  
Nylander, Robert, research notes, 1980s.  
Phalen, History of Town of Acton, 1954.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

ACTON

Form No:

F-422

Property Name:

105-107 Main Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 105-107 MAIN STREET

This 1 1/2 story, double house is one of the most distinctive dwellings on Main Street for its Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate details. Built on a granite foundation and clad in clapboards, the house is representative of Cape Cod cottages popular in the early to mid 1800s. The wide proportions, the double center entrances, and the twin chimneys are distinctive features of the 1844 two-family dwelling.

The main facade displays two center entrances in one enframingent which has a wide slightly pedimented entablature with narrow projecting applied lintel supported by applied square pilasters on which there are globe lanterns. Within the enframingent are two panelled doors, each flanked by full sidelights and separated by one pilaster. On the right side of the dwelling are two 6/6 windows each in an frame with applied rolled molding. On the left side of the Greek Revival entrances is a pagoda roof Italianate-like projecting bay. The window on the front of the polygonal bay has a large scale 3/3 sash flanked by single 1/1 sash all over a narrow panelled base on a granite foundation. The pagoda roof shape is most frequently found in South Acton while the oversized sash are most common in Acton Center, often on corner square bays. Trim includes a wide watertable at accentuating the foundation, flat corner boards, a wide frieze board and narrow molded cornice.

The south facade is wide with windows of new 6/6 sash set applied molded surrounds. There are four first story windows with a large space in the middle between the front two and back two. There are two second story windows and one in the gable peak. The north facade is similar to the south and has a 1-story gable roof rear ell on a concrete foundation. The ell has one 6/6 window and French doors which lead to a contemporary screened and lattice work porch.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Known as the "Faulkner Double House", this two-family dwelling was built in 1844 by Moses Hayward (1809-1875) for Winthrop Faulkner (1805-1880). The land had been owned by Faulkners since the early 1700s and was next to the family homestead and near the Faulkner mills. According to the 1856 map Faulkner and Hayward owned the house together. Hayward lived in his family homestead at 45-47 Stow Street and learned his trade of carpentry from his father Moses Hayward. The house was probably leased to workers from the Faulkner Mills. The two-family house continued in the Faulkner family as late as 1889 when it was owned by Florence E. Faulkner.

This double house was built in the same year in which the railroad came to Acton. Built for rental property, the building is demonstrative of improvements and increased housing needs in a community that was becoming industrialized with the improved transportation and responsive growth in mill activity.

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